GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2810
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
ELECTRIFICATION OF THE VILLAGES OF CHHATISGARH
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special economic package to electrify the rural areas of the newly created States particularly the drought affected Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (c) : Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on Union Budget 2001-02 hasstated that a package of initiatives is being launched by the Government to improve the power distribution system in rural areas. This includes :

- Completion of electrification of bulk of the remaining villages in the next six years.

- Extension of assistance to the States for village electrification works under the Prime Minister`s Gramodyog Yojana (PMGY) whose funding is being augmented.

- Stepping up credit support from Rural Electrification Corporation to SEBs for speedy electrification of dalit bastis.

- Electrification of households of scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society on priority.

- Improving the quality of power supply in villages, augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas supported by REC under the Accelerated Power Development Programme.

- Earmarking a sum of at least Rs.750 crores out of RIDF for rural electrification works.

- Augmenting the resources of REC, by allowing it to float capital gains taxexemption bonds along with NABARD and NHAI under Section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act.

The rural areas of the newly created states including Chhattisgarh would also get electrified under this package of initiatives along with other States.